

March 24, 2004

The Honorable Jim Nussle, Chairman
Committee on Budget
United States House of Representatives
Room 309, Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The American Legion has activated its grassroots lobbying efforts to defeat H. Con. Res. 393, the budget resolution for FY 05 through FY 09. Had this budget resolution been carried out to 10 years like H. Con. Res. 95 last year, nobody in your chamber would vote for it.

The American Legion shares your concern for addressing the deficit, but this is not a new issue or the right approach - balancing the books on the backs of present and future veterans, especially those leaving Walter Reed and other military medical facilities. If you plan to exempt national security and homeland defense, why aren't veterans' programs exempt as well? The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) serves as medical backup for both. After all, every program within VA is the end result of warfare.

The bipartisan views and estimates of the Veterans' Affairs Committee is more consistent with the recommendations of every major national veterans' service organization. These representatives are the official voices of veterans in your local communities.

Mr. Chairman, America is at war. Every day new veterans and survivors are being created. The American Legion fully supports the American GI - past, present, and future - and his or her family. This budget resolution is not in the best interest of the entire veterans' community.

I urge you to vote NO on H. Con. Res. 393.

Sincerely,

Steve Robertson, Director
National Legislative Commission